

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
10 March 2005 (10.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/021921 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification: **E21B 29/00**,  
17/042

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/028423

(22) International Filing Date:  
1 September 2004 (01.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/499,576 2 September 2003 (02.09.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EF, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
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TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,  
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

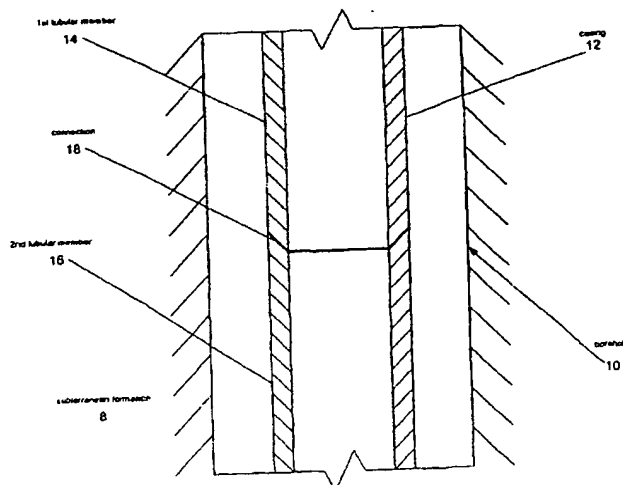
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

**Published:**

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A METHOD OF RADIALLY EXPANDING AND PLASTICALLY DEFORMING TUBULAR MEMBERS



(57) Abstract: A method of radially expanding and plastically deforming a tubular assembly comprising a first tubular member, a second tubular member, and a mechanical coupling for coupling the first tubular member to the second tubular member, the method comprising placing the mechanical coupling in tension; and then radially expanding and plastically deforming the mechanical coupling. It is emphasized that this abstract is provided to comply with the rules requiring an abstract to allow a searcher or other reader to quickly ascertain the subject matter of the technical disclosure: and is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to limit the scope or meaning of the claims under 37 C.F.R. 1.72.

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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
25 August 2005

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/28423

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : E21B 29/00, 17/042

US CL : 166/277,382,207,208

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 166/277,382,207,208,297,55,55.1,206,212,216,214,242.1,242.2

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
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## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category *  | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No.  |
|-------------|--|--|
| X<br>—<br>Y | US 6,607,220 B2 (Sivley, IV) 19 August 2003 (19.08.2003), Figures.                 | 1,4,6,13,17,18,20,21,25<br>28,30,33-<br>38,41,44,45,53,57,58,6<br>0,61,65-70,73,76,77<br>—<br>2,3,5,7-12,14-16,19,22-<br>24,26,27,29,31,32,39,4<br>0,42,43,45,47-52,54-<br>56,59,62-<br>64,71,72,74,75 |
| Y           | US 6,543,552 B1 (Metcalf et al.) 08 April 2003 (08.04.2001), Figures.              | 2,3,5,7-12,14-16,19,22-<br>24,26,27,29,31,32,39,4<br>0,42,43,45,47-52,54-<br>56,59,62-<br>64,71,72,74,75   |

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 April 2005 (21.04.2005)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 JUL 2005

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US04/28423

## C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A,P        | US 2004/0231839 A1 (Ellington et al.) 25 November 2004 (25.11.2004), Figures.      | 1-77                  |
| A,P        | US 2004/0060706 A1 (Stephenson) 01 April 2004 (01.04.2004), Figures.               | 1-77                  |
| A          | US 2003/0075338 A1 (Sively, IV) 24 April 2003 (24.04.2003), Figures.               | 1-77                  |
| A          | US 6,419,025 B1 (Lohbeck et al.) 16 July 2002 (16.07.2002), Figures.               | 1-77                  |
| A,P        | US 2004/0221996 A1 (Burge) 11 November 2004 (11.11.2004), Figures.                 | 1-77                  |
| A          | US 2003/0042022 A1 (Lauritzen et al.) 06 March 2003 (06.03.2003), Figures.         | 1-77                  |
| A          | US 6,527,049 B2 (Metcalf et al.) 04 March 2003 (04.03.2003), Figures.              | 1-77                  |
| A,P        | US 6,722,443 B1 (Metcalf) 20 April 2004 (20.04.2004), Figures.                     | 1-77                  |